

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 15 1978

DATE ENTERED APR 2 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School

AND/OR COMMON

Westside School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Washington and "D" Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Las Vegas

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

At-Large

STATE

Nevada

CODE

32

COUNTY

Clark

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Las Vegas

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall - 400 East Stewart Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Las Vegas,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nevada

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City Clerk's Office - Las Vegas City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

400 East Stewart Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Las Vegas,

STATE

Nevada

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYSTITLE "Inventory of Historically and Archaeologically Significant Sites
Within the City of Las Vegas"

DATE

April 30, 1978

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

UNLV Library - Special Collections

CITY, TOWN

Las Vegas,

STATE
Nevada

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Westside School is an empty school complex containing Las Vegas' oldest remaining schoolhouse. It is located in the core of Las Vegas' worst census district from a poverty standpoint and is adjacent to the nine other districts that comprise the "Top Ten" in poverty.

The school site is directly off the freeway exits and is easily accessible not only to EOB's prime target community, but to residents throughout the city. It is easily visible from the freeway and, in its present condition, does not present an attractive picture of what is the first branch of the Las Vegas Grammar School.

Though time and indifference have taken their toll, the building retains an appearance of quiet dignity. To preserve its architecture, characteristic of the era in which it was built, would be a source of pride to the citizens of the community as well as a way by which a part of Las Vegas history would be preserved for future generations of Nevadans and Clark County residents.

The school is presently closed and boarded to prevent entry. The original 1922 portion was constructed in a modest Mission Revival style; possessing a centrally placed curvilinear parapet wall which denotes the main entry.

The one-storey stucco and frame structure faces to the south (Washington Street). Please refer to attached site map for property layout.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1922/1928 (addition) BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

History of Westside School has great historical significance in that it is Las Vegas' oldest remaining schoolhouse. It was the original "Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School". The original building, the one proposed for renovation through this funding was built in 1922, at Washington and "D" Streets. The original building consisted of just two classrooms--the front two rooms of the existing structure. The back two rooms which make up the building were added in 1928.

The school was built on land donated to the Clark County School District by Helen J. Stewart in 1921. The first two rooms contained 1st and 2nd grades only and the two remaining rooms added in 1928 housed 3rd and 4th grades. The first principal of the school was Ms. Ruth Fyfe who served from 1924-1935. She currently resides in Las Vegas and may be reached at 384-1472.

The second principal of the school was Mr. Howard A. Wasden, who served from 1935-1942. He also resides in Las Vegas and may be reached at 734-6977. It is interesting to note that there were no black students at the school in its early days. The first black students were in attendance in 1926-27. Some early students of note who attended the Westside School included Dr. Sam Davis and Mrs. Mendoza, mother of District Judge John Mendoza.

It should also be noted that the original building was painted grey, not the pink color that it is now. The Westside School location is also historically significant as the original Las Vegas town site.

In 1948, eight block classrooms were added to the school complex, under the construction supervision of Mr. Ben O. Davey. The facility as it now stands is partially wood frame and partially concrete block and is situated on a 2.6 acre parcel. The school was phased out for use on June 8, 1967--the last principal being Mr. D. French--and on November 24, 1974, the School Board of Trustees declared it to be surplus property and adopted a resolution to sell at its appraised market value of \$25,000.

In the spring of 1975, the Economic Opportunity Board received \$37,500 from 1st Year Community Development Block Grant funds from the City of Las Vegas. \$25,000 was spent to purchase the facility and the remaining \$12,500 was used for preliminary restoration of the block structure. (Cont'd, see attachment)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interviews by R.F. with Otis Harris, Las Vegas (former student) and H.P. Fitzgerald (former teacher) May, 1978.
Las Vegas Cultural Resources Survey (to be published) 1978 by Charles H. Page and Associates and Margaret Lyneis, Ph.D

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 Acres

QUADRANGLE NAME LAS VEGAS NW, NEV. (1967)

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 1 6 6 6 7 8 0 4 0 5 4 5 0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block A of Valley View addition to City of Las Vegas, Beginning at SE corner of said Bloc A; thence South 88 degrees 19' 36" West along the South Line North 77 (See Cont. Sheet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE N/A

CODE

COUNTY N/A

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Blaine Rose, Planning Officer / Robert Fink, SHPO CONTACT

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County

2/24/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

2228 Comstock Drive

(702) 647-1477

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Las Vegas,

Nevada 89106

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE PAMELA CROWELL, Administrator, DHP&A/SHPO

DATE July 20, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9-2-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 3/30/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 15 1978
DATE ENTERED	APR 2 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

The Westside School is significant to the Black Community of Las Vegas from a social and education stand point. It was the school for the Black citizens; enabling many to obtain a basic education and /or go on to secondary educational facilities. The community leaders of the Westside still regard the old school with affection and esteem.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 15 1978
DATE ENTERED	APR 2 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Continued

Block A, a distance of 154.80 feet; thence leaving said South Line North 77 degrees 21' 31" East a distance of 157.68 feet to a point on the East line of said Block A; thence South 01 degrees 41' 02" East along said East Line a distance of 30.00 feet to the point of beginning.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 15 1978 MAR 5, 79
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

The Westside School played a key role in the historical development of Las Vegas.

Westside School, opening in 1921, was the first grammar school in West Las Vegas. It was the first public school attended by Native American students from the Piate Indian Colony, which is located approximately one mile from the school.

Westside School was also the first school of attendance for two major waves of migrants to the Las Vegas area. The first wave occurred in the early 1930's and was caused by the construction of Hoover Dam. The latter took place in early 1940, with war-related industry being the prime attractor. Many of the latter group were Blacks coming from the rural south and their arrival marked the physical beginning of today's West Las Vegas-North Las Vegas Black community.

Although socially significant to many groups, the Westside School is more significant to the Black community. Many Blacks had their first experience with racially integrated education at Westside. It was also the school they attended while making the transition from a rural to an urban life style and Westside is located in the current Black community.

Although regarded with affection and esteem by many citizens of Las Vegas, the Black community has a stronger emotional attachment to the school. Westside School played a significant role in the individual and collective beginning of the heritage of Black citizens and their community.

Finally, upon restoration of Westside School, community members have expressed the desire to be a part of the use of the school. Plans have been made to accommodate a senior-citizen project and historical artifacts room.

Alumni have agreed to maintain the school.

WASHINGTON AVENUE

BLDG #1

BLDG #2

ORIGINAL PORTION-----1922

EXPANDED PROTION-----1928

BLOCK STRUCTURE-----1948
(completely renovated
and occupied by EOB)

COURTYARD

PARKING LOT

D STREET



IT IS BUILDING # 1 FOR WHICH WE ARE
APPLYING AS HISTORICAL SITE. THIS
FACILITY IS PRESENTLY UNOCCUPIED AND
IS BOARDED-UP AS PER THE PHOTOS.

